(SHRIMATI RATNAMALA DEHARESHWAR SAVANOOR): (a) As per the latest available estimates, the percentage of people living below poverty line in Maharashtra is 36.86% in 1993-94 as against the national average of 35.97%.

(b) A number of schemes are under implementation in the State of Maharashtra for raising the standard of people living below poverty line. These schemes include projects under Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP), Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY), Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS), Drought Prone Area Programme (DPAP), Nehru Rozgar Yojana (NRY) Prime Minister's Integrated Urban Poverty Eradication Programme (PMIUEP) and Urban Basic Services Programme (UBSP) for the poor.

(c) and (d) The schemes for poverty eradication indicated in part (b) above, would be continued in the Ninth Five Year Plan. These schemes are likely to be rationalised and reoriented to make them more effective instruments of poverty alleviation. In order to improve the efficacy of the schemes, the emphasis would be on higher levels of investment per family, encouragement to activities under family credit plan and promotion of group projects. The details with regard to budgetary allocations for 1997-98 are being worked out.

Development of Vidarbha Region of Maharashtra

1820. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the nine districts of Vidarbha region in Maharashtra are backward, both economically and educationally, leading to poverty, hunger and unrest amongst the population of the region;

(b) if so, whether Government have formulated any special scheme for overall development of the region;

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps Government propose to take for overall development of the Vidarbha region?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRIMATI RATNAMALA DEHARESHWAR SAVANOOR): (a) The per capita income of Vidarbha Region in 1985-86 was estimated at Rs. 2318 which increased to Rs. 6177 in 1991-92, i.e. an increase of 166.48%. The increase during the same period in the per capita income of Maharashtra State was 160.63%. The literacy rate in Vidarbha Region in 1991 was 64.55% as against the literacy rate of 64.87% in Maharashtra.

(b) to (d) The Government is making efforts for ensuring a more balanced development of all the regions in the State. A time-bound programme for development of Vidarbha Region has been taken on hand. The programme include projects/schemes in various development sectors such as irrigation, roads, industries, agriculture, fisheries, dairy development, water supply urban development, health, technical education, backward classes and tribal development. In addition, new programmes for overall development of Vidarbha Region include allotment of plots in industrial areas at concessional rates, incentive schemes of seed capital to small scale and large and medium industrial units, decentralisation of mining areas, exemption from payment of stamp duty and registration fee on all documents except Article of Association and exemption from payment of electricity duty for all industrial units for a period of 7 years from 1.4.1997. In respect of Gadchiroli, this concession is for 10 years. An industrial complex of readymade garments at Amravati and some other agro-based industries are also to be set up in Vidarbha Region. Vidarbha Development Board has been set up with effect from 25th June, 1994.

The Board has been assigned the task of suggesting levels of development expenditure over the area of the Development Board during a plan period including the annual plans.

योजना आयोग की कार्य-प्रणाली में परिवर्तन

1821. **श्री राम जेठमलानी:** क्या प्रधान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि आज देश में बदलती हुई परिस्थितियों को देखते हुए वर्तमान योजना आयोग की कार्य-प्रणाली में व्यापक परिवर्तन की आवश्यकता है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो क्या कतिपय परिवर्तनों के प्रस्ताव भी प्राप्त हुए हैं; और

(ग) यदि हां, तो वे प्रस्ताव क्या-क्या हैं और प्रस्तावों को क्रियान्वित करने के संबंध में सरकार की क्या प्रतिक्रिया है?

योजना और कार्यक्रम कार्यान्वयन मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्रीमती रत्नमाला देहरेश्वर सवनूर): (क) से (ग) राष्ट्रीय विकास परिषद द्वारा 16 जनवरी, 1997 को अनुमोदित नौवीं योजना (1997-2002) संबंधी एप्रोच पेपर में योजना तैयार करने और प्राथमिकताओं की पहचान के लिए योजना आयोग द्वारा पालन की जाने वाली विस्तृत एप्रोच निर्धारित की है। नौवीं योजना अवधि के दौरान, योजना तैयार और योजना प्रक्रिया के विकेन्द्रीकरण में अनेक परिवर्तन अपेक्षित हैं, इसमें अन्य बातों के साथ-साथ, केन्द्र प्रयोजित स्कीमों का राज्यों को स्थानान्तरण, योजना तैयार करने में राज्यों की अधिक भागीदारी और पंचायती राज संस्थाओं तथा स्थानीय निकायों को अधिक अधिकार देना और कतिपय सामाजिक क्षेत्रकों में बुनियादी न्यूनतम सेवा के कार्यान्वयन में पालन की जा रही एप्रोच को अपनाना एवं कुछ क्षेत्रकों की गहराई से योजना तैयार करना शामिल है।

दृष्टिकोण पत्र में निहित निर्देशों द्वारा योजना आयोग के कार्यों का मार्गदर्शन होगा और नये परिवर्तनों के अनुसरण में ऐसे आवश्यक परिवर्तन किये जायेंगे।

Creation of Youth Cell in the Planning Commission

1822. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Youth Cell has been created in the Planning Commission for various Development Schemes/Programmes for the Youth of the country; and

(b) whether any Member of the Planning Commission has also been associated with the cell; if so, the name of that Member?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRIMATI RATNAMALA DEHARESHWAR SAVANOOR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

Annual Plan outlay for Punjab

1823. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the annual plan outlay for 1997-98 sought by Punjab and the outlay sanctioned;

(b) the industrial and agricultural growth rates contemplated thereunder;

(c) the targets fixed thereunder; and

(d) what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRIMATI RATNAMALA DEHARESHWAR SAVANOOR): (a) to (d) The annual Plan 1997-98 outlay of Rs. 2100 crore for the Punjab state was agreed upon in the meeting held between the Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission and the Chief Minister of the State. A growth rate of 9.50% in the Industrial Sector and 2.16% in the Agriculture (including Livestock) Sector is contemplated by the State Government of Punjab for the Annual Plan 1997-98. The production of Foodgrains, Sugarcane and Cotton is targetted at 209.66 lakh tonnes, 90.00 lakh tonnes and 22.00 lakh bales respectively.